Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank

Purpose

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank was created to provide infants and toddlers up to the age of three years immediate access to hearing aids following confirmation of hearing loss by an Audiologist. A six-month loan period may be granted to provide parents, or legal guardians of infants and toddlers, adequate time to secure permanent amplification through personal resources, insurance, or community assistance programs.

Background

The State made a significant commitment to the early intervention of congenital hearing loss by passing legislation in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2002 to create a Hearing Aid Loan Bank for the purpose of providing early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss. The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank was established to create a bridge between early identification and early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families. In May 2011, the Maryland State Legislature passed Senate Bill 754 establishing a permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the State Department of Education.

Summary

Access to amplification as soon as possible after a diagnosis of hearing loss in an infant or toddler is crucial to language and healthy social/emotional development that are the foundation for school readiness and success. The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank provides hearing aid technology to families of infants and toddlers with confirmed hearing loss, who do not have insurance coverage for hearing aids and/or experience delays in obtaining or purchasing aids. In addition, those in need of hearing aids for cochlear implant candidacy may obtain devices on a temporary basis.

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